Referring of Visvasvaraya Iron and Steel Company Limited to BIFR

2799. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Visvasvaraya Iron & Steel Co. Ltd. (VISL) is being referred to BIFR due to step motherly attitude of the State Government of Karnataka;

(b) whether it is a fact that while the Government of karnataka extended tax benefits to new pig iron producers in the State, no such relief was given to VISL for its newly set up blast furnace complex;

(c) whether it is a fact that a number of State Government units owe payments to VISL for materials purchased; and

(d) as a majority stake holder, whether SAIL will bail out VISL especially funding the captive power unit proposed for VISL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) While there is interaction by SAIL and VISL with the Government of karnataka (GOK), as on 31st march, 1995, VISL is not a Sick Industrial Company within the meaning of Clause (O) of Sub-Section (1) Section 3 of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision) Act, 1985. However, the financial position of VISL continues to be worrisome, largely due to inadequate power supply from karnataka Electricity Board (KEB) and non availability of various reliefs like exempiton from sales tax on Pig Iron etc. These issues have been taken up with the Government of Karnataka, and this will help in improving the financial position of VISL.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A captive diesel based power unit has already been installed at VISL.

Hostel for Working Disabled Women

2800. SHRI JOYANTA ROY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is correct that there is a shortage of facilities like working women hostels for the disabled women; and

(b) if so, whether Government are planning to build working women hostels; and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (KUMARI VIMLA VERMA): (a) and (b) Under the Scheme of assistance for construction/ expansion of hostel buildings for working women with Day-care Centre for children, handicapped working women are given preference in the matter of allotment of accommodation in working women hostel. Under the Scheme, financial assistance is provided to the extent of 50% of cost of land and 75% of the cost of construction of the building to Voluntary Organisations, Public Trusts, Universities, Women Development Corporations, Colleges and Schools of Social Work and local bodies. Applications of organisations/institutions for construction of hostel buildings exclusively for disabled working women can also be considered, if the proposals are in accordance with the scheme guidelines.

Admissions in Central Schools against Discretionary Quota

2801. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued any guidelines on discretionary quota for admissions in the Central Schools in the country; and if so, the details thereof;